

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 4 have been amended, and claims 1, 2 and 5 canceled to improve the clarity of the claimed subject matter and to bring the claims into conformity with U.S. practice and format, and to place the application fully in condition for allowance. All of the amendments are fully supported by the original disclosure of this application and therefore do not constitute the introduction of any new matter into this case. The original Abstract has been amended to provide a more concise summary of the disclosure in accordance with U.S. practice format.

The drawings are objected to because reference character 1 is not described in the specification. Accordingly, the specification has been amended to provide description for reference character 1.

Claims 3 and 4 have been objected to because the originally claimed features are not illustrated in the drawings. Accordingly, claims 3 and 4 have been amended to provide consistency with the original drawings. In view of the amendments to the claims, withdrawal of this objection is requested.

The original disclosure is objected to due to informalities. Accordingly, the specification has been amended in accord with the Examiner's suggestions. Withdrawal of this objection is requested.

Claims 1 and 3 are objected to because of informalities. Claim 1 has been cancelled. Claim 3 has been amended in accord with the Examiner's suggestion. Withdrawal of this objection is requested.

Claims 3 and 4 remain pending upon entry of the amendments to the claims above.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 5 would be allowable if

rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, claim 5 has been cancelled and its elements have been incorporated into independent claim 3. Claim 3 is believed to be in compliance with all requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 4 depends from claim 3 and is believed to be in condition for allowance as well.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled. With regard to claim 3, this claim has been amended to recite that there is a curved pipe section (23) at an end of each of the straight tubular sections (22), and the objected to range has been amended, to recite that the maximum and minimum distances between the long groove holes (25) are adjustable according to the length of at least one or said straight tubular sections (22) and said sleeve (26), as illustrated in Figures 3 and 4.

Claim 4 has been amended to recite that the sleeve (26) is hollow and interconnected between the straight pipe section (22) of the pair of corresponding anchors (21).

In view of the amendments to the claims, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

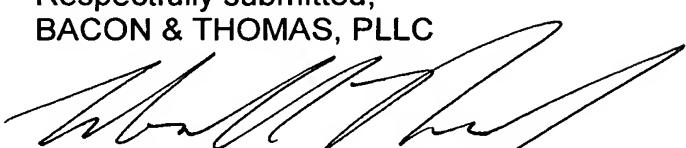
Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled.

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Independent claim 3 has been amended to incorporate all of the elements of allowable claim 5, and therefore is believed to be in condition for allowance, along with claim 4 which depends from claim 3. In view of the amendments to claim 3, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Application No.: 10/617,678
Group Art Unit: 3612
Examiner: Hilary L. GUTMAN

In the event there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application which can be resolved by a telephone call or facsimile communication to Applicant's Attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone or facsimile at the numbers provided below.

Respectfully submitted,
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